

# AMAA news



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**Students of Bethel Armenian Evangelical School  
of Aleppo, Syria**



Syria Relief  
Avedisian School  
Summer Interns  
Medical Mission  
Graduations



Edward and Pamela Avedisian proudly stand beside the architectural plan of the new Avedisian School at the Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 22, 2012 in Yerevan, Armenia.

## AMAA NEWS

is a publication of

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## Editorial Message

# AMAA Plans to Raise \$500,000 To Help Armenians in Syria

Levon Filian

*"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke 12:48 (NIV)*

We look at the news: there is no water where it is needed the most (drought); there is too much water where water is not needed (flood).

Today, a fertile land of Armenian minds and leaders is faced with a major drought. We must make a sacrificial effort to provide showers of blessings to bring life and to bring hope to our brothers and sisters in Syria.

Indeed, Syria has been a fertile land for leadership. Let us mention a few leaders, intellectuals, pastors, principals, philanthropists, provosts and authorities who were raised, educated and spiritually nourished in the land of Syria over the last 50 years — the Agbabians, Aharonians, Balabanians, Boynerians, Darakjians, Doghramjis, Guekguezians, Haidostians, Inejikians, Jizmejians, Karekin Catholicos Sarkissian, Melkonians, Nuyujukians, Sarmazians, Shamlians, Tootikians, Toumanians, etc.

Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian, Executive Director of the AMAA from 1976-1987, in his "A Brief History of the AMAA" writes about the **"burden"** the founding fathers were challenged with in the formative years of the AMAA from 1918-1921. The **burden**: Can we redeem the needy? Can we provide for the education of youth in refugee camps? Can we help construct the dispersed people's religious life? If we don't help wipe out ignorance and hopelessness by providing educational, social, intellectual, and religious opportunities, might we not lose a whole generation?

Today, as then, we are **burdened** to help our brothers and sisters in Syria lest we lose to touch the lives of a whole generation.

Today, we challenge you to join us with your prayer for peace and with your generous financial support to reach out and give hope and life to our brothers and sisters.

The AMAA has decided and is prepared to meet the safety, food and shelter, medical, educational and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters in Syria. The AMAA invites you to join us in raising \$500,000 for this worthy cause.

Our pastors and community leaders in Aleppo have formed a Social Action Committee to provide the needed assistance to our brothers and sisters. There is a great spirit of cooperation, inclusiveness, specific guidelines for providing assistance and supervision on accounting procedures.

We thank all those who have contributed to this worthy cause. To date, we have received over \$130,000 in donations.

Thank you and God bless you. ☐





# Avedisian School

## Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony

June 22, 2012 marks an historical day on the AMAA calendar. On this day, the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Avedisian Middle and High School took place in the Malatia-Sebastia District of Yerevan.

Present at the Groundbreaking were Edward and Pamela Avedisian, major sponsors of the Avedisian School, Melania Geghamyan, Principal of the School, Harout Nercessian, Operations Director and AMAA Representative in Armenia, Avedisian School Board members, government dignitaries, and many Avedisian School parents, students, graduates and supporters.

Mr. Avedisian addressed the guests and said how excited he is that the School is being built and how he can't wait until September 2014 when it will

be completed. Following several speeches, some of the Avedisian School students placed a time capsule they had prepared into the ground. The guests then joined the Avedisians in the Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Construction continues on the new building which will be the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building in Armenia as well as the most earthquake resistant building in Armenia.

To make a donation for the Avedisian School or for more information, please contact the AMAA at 201-265-2607 or visit our website at [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org). □



*Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia, addresses the guests.*



*The construction crew and AMAA representatives pictured at the construction site.*



*Edward Avedisian*



*L to R: Vladimir Osipov, Avedisian School Coordinating Committee (ASCC) member; Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia; Henry Balabanyan, ASCC member; Ruben Krikyan, ASCC member; David Ohanyan, Administrative Head of Malatia-Sebastia District; Pamela Avedisian and Edward Avedisian, School Benefactors; Vardan Vardanyan, Contractor of Construction Phase I; Melania Geghamyan, Avedisian School Principal; and Jeanmarie Papelian, Co-Chair of the AMAA Development Committee.*





# 2012 AMAA Internship and Evangelism Team Travel to Armenia

Rev. Ara Chakerian\*

It is not every day that we see young people leave their comforts to serve their motherland in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This summer, from July 6 to 22, a group of young Armenian men and women did just that. They traveled from California, Philadelphia, Chicago and Lebanon to Armenia to serve at AMAA's Vacation Bible School program, summer camp and to lead evangelistic events. The group consisted of 14 individuals: four leaders, Rev. Ara Chakerian, Pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church in North Hollywood, CA, Pastor Joseph Garabedian of St. Nareg Armenian Church in Whittier, CA, Lena Garabedian and Maria Minasyan; and ten interns, Matthew Momjian, Liana Varjabedian, Vrej Mekhjian, Vatche Chakerian, Arine Baghdoyan, Jason and Alec Garabedian, Hagop and Elena Karakazian, and Emily Shnorhokian, who joined us for the first week. The report of our mission trip can be presented in three different categories: church, VBS, and evangelism.

## Church

On Sundays, our group joined the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Yerevan, first at the Zeitoun Church and then at the AMAA Headquarters in Yerevan. Our group participated in the services led by Pastor Joseph Garabedian greeting and introducing our team, then sharing some encouraging words. Our team then led with a few worship songs with acoustic instruments, and Rev. Chakerian delivered the sermons. We are grateful to Rev. Gevorg Gasparian, Pastor of Zeitoun Church, and Rev. Hamlet Kyureghyan, Pastor of the Yerevan Church, for being great hosts.

## VBS/Camp

During the first week, our group was divided into two teams. One team traveled to Vartenis near Lake Sevan to lead VBS for children ages 7-12. Daily VBS ran 10 to 4 p.m. and at the conclusion of the camp the children returned to their homes. At Camp Vartenis, our group helped run the program with Rev. and Mrs. Armen and Louba Movsesyan for the week. Over 60 children from the surrounding villages attended and learned new songs, Bible lessons, played games and enjoyed a meal. Our team also had the opportunity to visit over ten families in the village to encourage, witness and pray for their needs.

Meanwhile, the second team headed north to Stepanavan where children from four different villages were gathered — Urut, Gurtan, Vartablour and Stepanavan. The children were brought by buses to the Armenian Evangelical Church where a team of leaders was ready to receive them. They had 14 trained local leaders headed by the church's Christian Ed. Director Mr. Karen Ochinyan and his wife Armine who helped prepare the staff to teach, lead, feed and love the children. Our team took part in teaching Bible, memory verses, arts and crafts, games and sports, skits and puppet shows, and also taught the children new Armenian worship songs. The week

concluded with a concert and a time for testimony for the children to enjoy and be inspired by the witness of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

During the second week, the entire team headed to Hankavan at Shoghig Camp. Here the children stay at the camp site for the entire week. Nearly 180 children attended and over 40 local leaders were trained to teach and care for the campers under the direction of Rev. Garnik Tutikyan and his son, Nareg. This Camp was on a major scale for camping ministry and much preparation work had been done by the local staff. Our group was blessed to help as much as possible within the allocated time. Our time there was short but we were glad to conclude our stay there with another musical concert and a time of testimonies to all those who were present.



*The Interns helped run the Children's Camp in Stepanavan, Armenia.*



*Camp Sheen Shoghig in Hankavan*



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# Reflections of the AMAA Interns

The internship was a very interesting and profound experience. It was eye-opening to see the attitude of everyone there in the face of many hardships. I was especially struck by the pastor of the town of Vartenis, Armen Movsisyan, and his family, who did so much for the residents with so little. The children were very excited by our presence and just wanted to spend time with us. We got the chance to share the Gospel with many of them.

The trip had a significant effect on my spiritual growth. I learned to be more deliberate in spending quiet time with God. It was inspiring to see the Armenian churches and historical monuments like Etchmiadzin, Khor Virab and Dzidzernagapert. The trip allowed me to grow in my Armenian heritage and strengthen my knowledge of the language. I am blessed that God allowed me to go on the trip and I hope to have the chance to return in the future.

*Matthew Momjian*

First of all, I thank God for giving me this opportunity through the AMAA to serve Him in Armenia with other brothers and sisters in Christ from the United States and Lebanon. Unlike my past experiences, God taught me to always depend on Him. During the first week, I was part of the group sent to Vartenis, a city with very poor conditions, to run a Vacation Bible School with brother Armen Movsisian and his wife Louba. It was amazing to see brother Armen giving thanks and relying on God in every circumstance, whether good or bad. Moreover, it was amazing to see the VBS kids passionately singing and praising God and carefully listening to the Word of God. I haven't seen such passion for the Lord before. I ask that you start (or continue) praying for the growth of all the seeds planted in the hearts of the people and kids we served. And I want to leave you with a verse we taught to the VBS kids: "Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you." Psalm 55:22 NLT

*Hagop Karakazian*

I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to serve Him in the AMAA summer internship program in Armenia. These two weeks have been very influential to me. I saw that God has a greater purpose for my life. And I learned to trust the Lord and rely on Him no matter what happens. When we went to Vartenis, I saw that even though the people there lived in very poor conditions, they were content and happy with their lives. They weren't complaining. Instead, they were trying to make the best of what they already had. Pray for Armenia and pray for the AMAA. God bless you.

*Helena Karakazian*

My name is Arine Baghdoyan. I am 20 years old,. I thank God for having every means to realize every wish of mine in my life. I thank God for having a supporting family. All I'm trying to say is that I am grateful for every blessing. Living and serving God in conditions poorer than mine in Vartenis by helping out in their summer school did make me a more grateful person. However, one thing God showed me through this internship was that He is truly real, and living. The blinking eyes of the kids full of joy while worshipping God, the thirst for God the worshippers had in different Armenian churches, and the sacrifice the pastors there do just for the sake of a few people's faith all proved to me that God is living and real indeed. This much effort and pure joy in and for God couldn't be worthless. I thank God for using the AMAA as His tool and thank the AMAA for wanting to be God's tool. I hope that the readers of the AMAA News would also serve God through this internship so that they would share their experiences here for me to read.

*Arine Baghdoyan*

## Evangelism

We held four evangelistic events: two nights were at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Stepenavan, with the help of Pastor Rev. Khatchegh Khachatryan, then at the Center Church, with the help of Rev. Hamlet Kyureghyan, and the final event was at the Ichevan Church, with the help of Rev. Albert Paityan. Our band led the worship in Armenian songs while the song words were displayed on the screen. All of the interns took turns giving their testimony, and Pastors Chakerian and Garabedian delivered the messages. We pray that the Lord will make our efforts fruitful for His kingdom.

The group has a new appreciation for the work the AMAA does in Armenia. Our 2012 Internship Team was grateful to be a small part of the vast ministry that takes place there year round. Our sincere thanks to Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, for inviting us

to serve there, to Harout Necessian and Gayane Haroutyunyan of AMAA Armenia for all the preliminary work and preparations; thanks to all the pastors for being great hosts and exemplary ministers to their people and to us; we thank the pastors and their churches of Stepanavan and Zeitun for the picnic, the magnet tokens and all the love shown to us, and a special thanks to Armen Beylerian and David Aynejian of the AMAA for their support in this ministry; and last but not least - I would like to thank my 2012 Interns who were ready and willing to serve with humility and for the glory of God. May the Lord richly bless you. We hope we can do this again soon! □

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*\*Rev. Ara Chakerian served as the Director of 2012 AMAA Summer Internship Program.*





I didn't know what to expect when I flew into Armenia. Initially I had the idea that we were only going to play music for one church and move on to the next. When we reached our first site in Stepanavan, I realized that although the situation of the people here was much worse than in Yerevan, it was naturally a very green and beautiful village. After the first day of serving in their VBS, I fell in love with the people, the children, and the church. Everything is so much more simple, worry free, and a lot slower. Although they are financially hindered, they do not seem to show it and I really saw that as an encouragement because of how I am always stressed out about working, going to school, and paying bills (even when I have the means of taking care of all those things). God put it in my heart to financially aid some of the leaders and parents of children and it was an immense blessing giving to them because they know that we care for them more than just by giving them our physical service.

Throughout the second week of our service in Armenia, we were able to have our evangelism worship nights at various churches across Armenia, including Yerevan, Ichevan and Hankavan. Worshiping with different churches gave that sense of heaven that we will all be experiencing and even though I didn't know anyone from most of these churches, the connection that Christ brings with all of us made me feel like I have known them my whole life. Armenia is a wonderfully beautiful country with many historic sites, churches, stunning views and beautiful nature. Visiting this country with a missions perspective made it all the more enjoyable and rewarding and I would definitely revisit the country and the people I got to get so close with. This trip was a hundred times more than what I expected and I would encourage anyone to take advantage of an opportunity like this

*Vrej Mekhjian*

These past couple of weeks in Armenia were life-changing. I'm glad to be home, but at the same time I'll never forget everyone from Vartenis, Camp Hankavan, and especially our AMAA family ♥ I'm so thankful that I was given the opportunity to make memories and share experiences with such amazing people.

*Liana Varjabedian*



*Worship Service at the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Zeitoun.*



*At the AMAA Headquarters in Yerevan.*

## Rotary Club Supports AMAA

The Hackensack Rotary Club of Hackensack, NJ recently presented the AMAA with a check for \$5,000 to help support the emergency medical needs of our sponsored children in Armenia. The Hackensack Rotary Club, founded in 1920, is a member of the International Rotary Club. The volunteers provide service and support to others in the areas of education, health, job training, hunger and peace. Pictured left to right are: Tigran Melkonyan, AMAA Child Sponsorship Supervisor, Serge Krikorian, AMAA supporter and past President of the Hackensack Rotary Club, Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, and Steve Koestner, Assistant Treasurer of the Hackensack Rotary Club.

The AMAA thanks Mr. Krikorian for being instrumental in raising these funds for our children in Armenia.





# Minister to Ministers in Armenia: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian

**W**e thank God for Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian for accepting the calling to be the Minister to Ministers in Armenia.

He moved to Armenia in July 2012 to take this very important responsibility. Rev. Melkonian was introduced to the leadership in Armenia. He, along with Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, and Harout Nercessian, AMAA Armenia Representative, met with ECA leadership, held worship services, spent time in prayer, met with Avedisian School committee members and with several Church board members. They also held a press conference, attended meetings with Hranush Hakobyan, Minister of Diaspora Affairs, and Taron Margaryan, Mayor of Yerevan, and discussed with them the AMAA's mission and ministry in Armenia and the future plans of the Association.

Please keep Rev. Melkonian in your prayers as he takes this "servant leadership" role in Armenia. Also pray for the seminar for pastors that he has scheduled for September 2012. ☐



*L to R: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Minister to Ministers in Armenia; Mrs. Hranush Hakobyan, Minister of Diaspora Affairs; Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director; and Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia.*



*With Evangelical Church leaders in Stepanavan.*



*L to R: Narek Sargsyan, Chief Architect of Yerevan; Taron Margaryan, Mayor of Yerevan; Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia; Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director; Lucine Ohanian, AMAA Yerevan Office Public Relations; and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Minister to Ministers in Armenia.*



*At the newly renovated church in Shirakamoud.*



*At the construction site of the new Avedisian School.*





# Fourth Annual Medical Mission To Armenia

Dr. Al and Sue Phillips

This June, the Medical Mission Team, led by Dr. Al and Sue Phillips, returned to Armenia for its fourth year. The enthusiasm for the mission has grown substantially and this is due to God's providential leading of those who served.

The Mission Team of 37 worked in ambulatory clinics in Vanadzor and Stepanavan, Armenia. The team consisted of 7 physicians, a chiropractor, a pharmacist, a registered nurse, 20 essential ancillary workers, and 7 Armenian translators. The Team used the Vanadzor Evangelical Church and the AMAA Social Service Center in Stepanavan for their medical facilities. Patients came from local neighborhoods and many were transported to the clinic by bus from outlying villages.

Over the course of the week, 917 patients were seen. This included adults and children. Many of the patients had been seen in previous years and relayed that our prior treatments had improved the quality of their lives. Common conditions included hypertension, diabetes and musculoskeletal problems. Purchased medications

from donations allowed for an extensive pharmacy. Patients received all their drugs without charge. We were blessed to have enough medications to supply patients with a year's worth of treatment. Also, reading glasses were distributed. While patients were waiting to be seen, our nurse educator gave lectures on various medical issues. Donated toothbrushes and other oral hygiene items were distributed and patients were taught how to maintain good dental health.

During the clinic, patients were also encouraged to attend church services,



where the good news of Jesus Christ was preached. Many were touched both physically and spiritually. We were told by the local clergy that our yearly clinics have resulted in more participation in the churches throughout the year and that we have been an encouragement to their congregations.

The Medical Mission Team has committed to return to Armenia for our fifth year in June 2013. If you have any desire in serving our brothers and sisters in Armenia or are interested in knowing more about the medical mission, please see our website which is located on the left column of [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org).

Medical and non-medical, Armenian or non-Armenian speaking volunteers are welcome. Jesus, during His ministry, often met the physical needs prior to addressing the spiritual needs of those He met. We are committed to emulating His love in Armenia. □



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## President of Karabagh and Defense Minister of Armenia Honor Dr. Vartkes and Mary Najarian

**A**MAA supporters Dr. Vartkes, an honorary Colonel in the Armenian Military Force, and Mary Najarian were recently in Armenia and Karabagh at the invitation of President of Karabagh Pako Sahakyan to participate in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Liberation of Shushi.

The Najarians have been to Armenia and Karabagh over 44 times. The Medical Outreach organization they started 27 years ago was instrumental in providing medicine, medical supplies and communication equipment during the Karabagh war. The husband and wife doctor and nurse team operated under the most primitive, dangerous and difficult conditions — in the trenches of the borders of Karabagh under the shells of the enemy with no lights, nor water.

Mary has worked very closely with the AMAA over the years. In 1989, right after the Spitak Earthquake, the first 14 severely injured, handicapped children from the earthquake devastated area were brought to Los Angeles. The Ladies Auxiliary of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA was the first to volunteer the care of seven children. Marie Mandroian and Savey Tufenkian stayed all day and night with the children at the Shriner's and the Centennella Hospitals. Eventually, a total of 120 children were brought from Armenia for treatment in the United States.

In February 1990, with the invitation of the AMAA and the late Rev. Movses Janbazian, Mary traveled to Armenia to personally check the conditions in Gumri and Spitak. They went from door to door and saw the miseries of the people, the sick and the hungry. They saw families with no shelter, living in makeshift tin storage boxes. Often the visits lasted until two in the morning. Rev. Janbazian read the Bible and prayed for them. "These people are hungry for the word of God," he said. Some had never heard of Jesus and some were afraid to hear.

"After seeing the miseries of the children, the thought of starting an Orphan Committee took roots in my head," said Mary.

With the help and support of Rev. Janbazian, the Orphan and Child Care Committee started. The first Co-Chairs were Mary Najarian and Elizabeth Agbabian, and today it is an organization well known for the incredible work it does to help the needy children of Armenia.

Last year, the Najarians sent two containers to the AMAA in Armenia. One container was filled with blankets and winter



*Mrs. Mary and Dr. Vartkes Najarian*

jackets for children and another container was filled with tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap, shampoo, etc.

Mary helped and encouraged the Garni Organization to send containers to Armenia. This year alone, Garni's Chairwoman Silvia Tchakmakjian has sent four twenty-foot containers of new clothing to the AMAA in Armenia.

Mary has been an ardent spokesperson for the AMAA and has a soft spot for Christian Missionaries. Her father-in-law survived the 1915 massacres because of the guidance and support of the American Missionaries in Ourfa. Mary received her education in American High School for Girls run by American Missionaries. She affectionately remembers Miss Silvia Nielson, a true Christian, loving and giving lady, a missionary from Boston, who was her English, Bible and Performing Arts teacher. She was her role model. "I always hoped to be like Miss Nielson one day," said Mary.

"This trip to Armenia and Karabagh was a very joyous occasion for both of us," said Mary. "We met with the President of Armenia Serge Sargsyan for 45 minutes and reminisced the days of the Karabagh conflict. It was a big surprise when we each received the Medal of Appreciation from President of Karabagh Pako Sahakyan and a few days later in Yerevan we were invited by the Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan, who presented us the Medal of Military Honor."

The AMAA is grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Najarian for their assistance and for their demonstration of love to the people of Armenia. We hope this cooperation will continue in the future. □

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*(Adapted from an article written in Eastern Armenian by Andranik Mardoyan)*



# Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian Celebrates 10 Years at Haigazian University

**T**his year marks a milestone for Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon — ten years as President of the University.

Haigazian University, named after Dr. Armenag Haigazian, opened in 1955 with 43 students as a joint endeavor of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE). Today there are over 900 students from over 20 countries throughout the world and a faculty and staff of 150.

Dr. Haidostian is himself a graduate of Haigazian, receiving a BA in Psychology with a minor in Armenian Studies in 1984. He continued his education and earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Near East School of Theology and a Th.M. and Ph.D. in Pastoral Theology from the Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ. In addition to his Presidency at the University and his local and international ecclesial, ecumenical and educational responsibilities, he serves as Chairman of the Central Committee of the UAECNE as well as a number of positions in the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches. He is married to Maral Purzekian and they have two daughters, Garin and Talar.

Dr. Haidostian was approached in 1993 by former Haigazian President John Markarian and his wife, Inge, to discuss the possibility of joining the University administration as soon as he completed his degree from Princeton. "I was quick to say that I cared deeply about Haigazian, but that I had not done my doctoral work in theology to simply use it for administration," said Dr. Haidostian. "Ten years later, in 2002 when I accepted the presidency, Dr. Markarian reminded me that in 1992, I said to him, 'I need to teach for about ten years and then later I may want to go into administration somewhere,' a detail I had forgotten."

"Back in 2002, I remember making a few statements regarding the move from teaching at the Near East School of Theology to the Presidency of Haigazian. I thought I would be able to make a greater impact on the Armenian, Lebanese, and the larger world in my new position. I also remember saying that I would not come to Haigazian to simply keep things running but that I would see how we could grow and serve the youth and society in even newer ways."

## 10 Years of Growth

The University has indeed grown under his Presidency. In the last ten years, the student numbers have more than doubled, parallel to a similar growth in the operational budget, the financial aid grants and the building facilities. The staff and faculty numbers and the

academic program and research options have grown significantly, alongside the University's public image and relations with academic institutions in Lebanon, Armenia and the society at large. A recent addition, a new Heritage Building on May Ziadeh Street, opened in February 2011 and houses a number of offices including Admissions, Accounting and Finance.

"Life on campus today is friendly, collegial and generally positive, despite the tensions and divisions in the larger society," said Dr. Haidostian. "Haigazian is known to be a place for hard working students; some even complain there is too much emphasis on academics and that regulations are stricter than young people would prefer. Despite our relatively small size campus and student body, there is much movement, creativity and activity. Lebanese and Armenian holidays, world developments and youth concerns, all find a place on our calendar. Moreover, the University is low on bureaucracy and formalities and this is appreciated by the students and their families."

Approximately half of the students at Haigazian major in business and economics related fields and go on to work in financial institutions, family businesses and assume administrative positions. Some also work with non-government organizations. Other graduates enter the fields of education and service and a growing number are continuing their education.

## Proud of Alumni

"Our alumni, which number over 3,000, are very important because our success is mainly measured by how well they do," said Dr. Haidostian. "We are very proud to have alumni in Parliament, in leadership positions of religious organizations and in bank management. We also have a large number working in various aspects of the media. Our graduates are spread out all over the world and in the Lebanese and Armenia diasporas."

Dr. Haidostian is very pleased with the general growth of the University in almost every domain. "I have made sure that we see ourselves in continuity with my predecessors. They started the work and I have followed up and brought things to fruition. I am very proud of the success we have had in establishing a long term





partnership with the USAID, in developing relations with Armenia, in completion of the Heritage Building as an extension of the campus, in being able to keep the friendly atmosphere on campus despite quantitative growth, in the launching of a research center, in seeing students receive graduate degrees abroad and in making the Haigazian brand name a successful one."

### Challenges Ahead

Despite the many successes of the University, Dr. Haidostian said that there are a number of challenges he and the University face. "Human and financial resources are key to the success of institutions such as ours," said Dr. Haidostian. "Balancing our budget, especially in capital projects and financial aid, is a current and ongoing challenge. Keeping a balance between every aspect we face (an Armenian university, a Lebanese institution, an American liberal arts program with Armenian Evangelical roots and commit-

ment to a larger world, including service to Armenia and the Middle East), is very important. Competing with the best universities in the region and abroad despite the unstable conditions of the Middle East, planning long term with limited resources and limited sense of security around us as well as the challenge of some Armenian students unable to afford paying tuition despite our generous aid program are of utmost concern."

"The unique role of Haigaizian keeps intriguing me," concluded Dr. Haidostian. "I cannot imagine the Armenian diaspora without a Haigazian. The University has a greater role and impact than what we think. Haigazian is an Armenian pride, an Armenian Evangelical testimony of God's goodness and the resilience of the Armenian people, and a witness to the fertile soil of the land of the cedars. I believe there is much more potential for Haigaizian University. With growing financial and human resources, we can accomplish much more." □

## Heritage Building Needs Your Support

"Our new architectural pride, the Heritage Building, is functioning now as our administrative center and academic research hub," said Dr. Haidostian. "Our first priority today is to encourage friends and supporters to contribute generously to the Heritage Building Fund."

If you would like to support our efforts, please send your donation, earmarked for Haigazian University Heritage Center, to the AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 or go on our website, [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org).



## AMAA Awards \$176,000 in College Scholarships to U.S. and Canada Students

Robert Hekemian, Jr., Chairman of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Scholarship Committee, reported that 75 students applied for assistance this year. The Scholarship Committee met for three days and carefully reviewed each applicant's file. "It was hard to reject even the very few who did not qualify, based on financial and academic guidelines," said Mr. Hekemian. "We awarded scholarships to 65 students for a total of \$176,000."

In addition, \$15,000 was awarded to qualified university students in Armenia.

"I am writing to express my gratitude for making the AMAA Scholarship available. I feel very honored to be a recipient," wrote Karni Semerjian upon hearing that the AMAA had granted her a scholarship to help her in her studies at Boston University. "Thanks to your generous grant, I will not have to spend so much time worrying about financial aspects of college, and will focus on the academic."

For the last 90 years, the AMAA has helped thousands of students from kindergarten to high school with tuition aid and hundreds of college students with scholarships. Aid has also been directly given to schools and institutions of higher education, including Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut.

The scholarships granted this year were provided from a number of AMAA scholarship funds established over the years to help students in need. Qualified students can request applications from AMAA headquarters in Paramus, New Jersey starting in January of each year. The deadline to submit applications for 2013-2014 academic year is May 1, 2013.



# 144 Students Bid Farewell to Haigazian University

## at the 52nd Annual Commencement

Mira Yardemian, Public Relations Director of HU

**O**n June 29, after successfully achieving their scholastic requirements, 144 students, including 125 undergraduates and 19 graduates, proudly received their diplomas from Haigazian University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian.

Government Minister General Panos Manjikian represented the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the Parliament, and the President of the Council of Ministers. Among the attendees were MPs Jean Oghasabian, Hagop Pakradounian, Dr. Bassem Shabb, Sebouh Kalpakian, and Armenian Ambassador Ashod Kotcharian. In addition, representatives of the Commander of the Army and the chiefs of Internal and General Security, the President of the Supreme Council of the Evangelical Community in Syria and Lebanon, Rev. Salim Sahyouni, Archbishops Kegham Khatcherian and Jean Teyrouzian, former ministers and MPs, clergy, members of the Board of Trustees, parents, relatives and friends also attended.

A celebratory processional march by faculty and graduates, followed by the Lebanese National Anthem, and the Invocation offered by Trustee John Sagherian, opened the 52nd commencement exercises.

"I place on your shoulders the heavy load of turning your education into good service, professional and ethical behavior, and a forward looking attitude," said President Haidostian to the Class of 2012. President Haidostian considered education as a "promise," and universities turn that promise into a profession, noting that, "Universities take upon themselves the task of responding to the challenges of the future, more so than governments may succeed in doing."

Keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Salem, Director of the Carnegie Middle East Center and a sought after consultant, lecturer and politician, tackled the current issues in the Arab World, and the Arab spring. "Spring is about rebirth, and the Arab spring was led by the youth which represent every society's rebirth," Salem noted. Salem emphasized "change," urging the graduates to be filled with positive energy and ideals to shape the coming decades.

In her valedictorian address, Palig Ladayan hailed Haigazian as a unique University which "makes you distinctive from thousands of graduates." For her part, Natscha Schellen reflected on one of the greatest virtues "love." Describing her experience at Haigazian, Schellen had the following expression, "crawling out of the cocoon of shyness into another one, a cocoon of love."

After the Benediction offered by the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, the graduates threw their caps high into the air, white balloons flew overhead.

A Baccalaureate Service was held on June 24 at the First Armenian Evangelical Church in Beirut. □





# Merдинian School's Commencement Exercises Highlight Students' and School's Achievements

On June 23, C. & E. Merдинian Armenian Evangelical School held its commencement exercises for elementary and middle school graduates in Sherman Oaks, CA. The ceremony was hosted by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teachers, Margarit Meghroyan and Sona Kassardjian, and Principal Lina Arslanian. Attendees at the ceremony included Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Merдинian School Board members, faculty, parents, family and friends.

Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Board Chairperson, highlighted the students' as well as the School's achievements during the academic year. In his keynote speech, Rev. Ron Tovmassian took the opportunity to impress on the graduates their potential to make an important impact in this world by being true to their principles.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade salutatory and valedictory speeches were delivered followed by the presentation of diplomas and awards by Principal Arslanian.

During the graduation ceremonies, Dr. Sylva Karayan presented the school with the "2012 Award for Most Active, Productive, and Inspiring Armenian Department." This annual award is given by the AGBU Yervant Babayan Institute of Pedagogy for Research and Development to a school that meets its criteria. The School's Administration and Board of Directors thank the School's Armenian teachers and Ashkhen Ispendjian, Chair of the Armenian Department, for earning this prestigious award for the School.

Greg Martayan presented the School with a certificate of recognition from the California State Assembly, for participating in the "Helping Feed Los Angeles" initiative. The Merдинian School collected over one thousand cans of food to help feed the needy.

In keeping with the tradition of Merдинian graduation ceremonies, Principal Arslanian was presented with a collage of memories prepared by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates. In her message, Principal Arslanian gave the graduates a final appeal to make good use of the knowledge that they acquired at Merдинian and wished them much success in their future endeavors.

The Kindergarten graduation took place earlier on May 15. During a special program that included poems, songs and dances, sixteen students received their diplomas from their Homeroom teacher, Taleen Barsoumian, and Principal Arslanian. Rev. Jason Matossian gave the keynote speech. The children performed a play based on the Biblical story of Noah's Ark and a reception followed the ceremony.

The Merдинian School is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). It has served the Armenian community since 1982 with great success and achievements. In 2012, the School did major remodeling to make the School more inviting and welcoming to its students and families.

For more information on this excellent School or to enroll your children and pass along your Armenian heritage to your children, please call 818-907-8149. □







**The Y. M. Philibossian Armenian Evangelical College** (Beirut, Lebanon) Commencement was held on June 27. Among the audience were MP Shant Chinchinian, Armenian Evangelical Reverends, Father A. Granian and the Rev. Father Paren. After the Lebanese and Armenian anthems, Chaplain Karine Cholakian read scripture and prayed, and the guest speaker Dr. Barouyr Aghbashian (AEC 1964 graduate) gave the address. Prizes were distributed, the School choir sang and the valedictorians Garin Haidostian and Nayiri Krikorian spoke respectively in Armenian and Arabic. The School Principal Dr. Zaven M. Messerlian after distributing the diplomas addressed the guests. Exemplary student medals were given to Raffi Kestenian and Nayiri Krikorian and two teachers were acknowledged. Dr. Armen Urneshlian received a plaque as he had obtained a Ph.D. in Armenia, and Mrs. Aghbashian received "best Armenian teacher" diploma from Armenia. Christine Maamarbashi played the piano, and Pastor Hrair Cholakian said the closing words and gave the Benediction.



"Would it make a difference if the Central High School were any different?" was the rhetorical question posed by Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian during the 2012 Commencement exercises of the 6th and 12th graders of the **Armenian Evangelical Central High School** of Eshrefieh, Beirut, Lebanon. "Of course it would!" is the natural answer. The School, founded in 1922, operated under very harsh conditions. But through austerity, perseverance, and true Christian faith, the highest values were intermarried with recent pedagogical methods. "Some new institutions give lavish promises," he added, "but here you have a 90-year-old heritage and innumerable achievements."

The speeches, songs and dances electrified the audience against a backdrop of love and gratitude, and when 36 graduating students thanked their parents with bouquets, and when the students received congratulations, one unequivocal message was transmitted: death shall have no dominion, for it would take no prophet to envisage the cream on the huge reception cake as the graduates themselves in their respective societies.



The 2011-2012 graduates of the **Armenian Evangelical Shamlian Tatikian Secondary School** of Nor Marash, Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon.





The 2011-2012 graduates of the **Armenian Evangelical Peter & Elizabeth Torossian Middle School** of Nor Amanos, Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon.

The Commencement Ceremonies of the **Armenian Evangelical Bethel Secondary School** was held on July 7, on the School's campus in Aleppo, Syria.

Among those present were the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, the Minister of State for Environment Affairs, Dr. Nazira Sarkis, the Armenian Consul to Aleppo H.E. Garen Krikorian, in addition to a number of clergy. There were also representatives from cultural centers and foundations, the Central Committee and the Educational Council of the Armenian Evangelical Community, parents and fellow students.

Following the Syrian and Armenian national anthems, Betty Yepremian, the Principal of the School, gave the opening speech. The talented students then presented a beautiful program of songs, music, recitals of poems, dramas and dances, which were dedicated to the liberation of "Shushi" in Nagorny Karabagh and Vartanantz Celebration.

The valedictorians of the Secondary and Middle School Graduating Class addressed the guests in Armenian and in Arabic.



Afterwards the School's Principal invited Rev. Selimian to the podium to present the diplomas to the Secondary and Middle School graduates.

The ceremony ended with a prayer and Benediction said by Rev. Selimian.



On June 21, the Year and Program and Graduation Ceremony of the **Avedisian School** of Yerevan, Armenia was held at the AMAA Headquarters in Yerevan. Present were the benefactors of the School, Edward and Pamela Avedisian, Co-Chair of AMAA Development Committee Jeanmarie Papelian and her daughter, Grace Bottomley. The highlight of the program was a play staged and directed by Nuné Abrahamyan and presented by the ninth grade graduates. The play was based on a story - *Tempgapertee Arumeh* - written by famous Armenian writer Hovaness Toumanyanyan.

At the end of the program, the diplomas were distributed to the graduating students by School Principal Melania Geghamyan with assistance from Edward and Pamela Avedisian.



In late August, Levon Filian, Executive Director of AMAA, visited California and had several meetings and visits with AMAA donors and supporters.



*Front row, L to R: Nazareth Darakjian, Levon Filian, Zaven Hanessian and George Lousararian. Back row L to R: Ani Darakjian, Liliana Filian, Ani Hanessian and Vivian Lousararian.*



*L to R: Bryan Bedrosian, Kathryn Bedrosian, Krikor Bedrosian, Levon Filian, Ernest Bedrosian, Carlotta Bedrosian, and Jane Bedrosian.*



*L to R: Agnes Darakjian, Rev. Barkev Darakjian and Levon Filian.*



*Front row L to R: George Phillips, Levon Filian, Liliana Filian, Norair Sarian and Martha Sarian. Back row L to R: Suzie Phillips, Richard Phillips, Gary Phillips, Arsine Phillips, Dina Phillips, George Phillips Jr. and Mary Sarian.*

## Teens Travel to Armenia

Over the summer months, two AMAA teens traveled to Armenia to participate in AMAA activities.

Grace Bottomley, daughter of Jeanmarie Papelian, Chair of the Armenian Children's Milk Fund and Co-Chair of the AMAA Development Committee, made her first visit with her mother to Armenia from June 20-26. The 13 year-old from Salem NH attended the Avedisian School graduation on June 21 and presented gifts to the graduates that were put together by the youth group of her church. After the graduation, she toured the School and met some of the students and teachers. Grace was impressed with the students but said "I now understand why the AMAA and the Avedisians need to build a new school." Grace, who is a member of the Youth Group at the Ararat Armenian

Congregational Church in Salem, said, "I'm so lucky to be in the school I'm in now and to live in America."

Grace also attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Avedisian School on June 22. She was invited to place a shovel full of cement in the hole where the Avedisian School students placed a time capsule during the Ceremony.

Before heading home, Grace and her mother had the opportunity to meet with many families in Yerevan and Gyumri who are assisted by the Armenian Children's Milk Fund. With the help of a friend in New Hampshire, Grace is now preparing a film about the Avedisian School and her trip to Armenia.

Kyle Kevorkian, grandson of Ken Kevorkian, AMAA Board member and Co-Chair of the AMAA Development Committee,

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# *Our Mission in Motion*

## AMAA 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

### Dinner and Concert

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the AMAA Headquarters, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting.

The Annual Meeting Dinner will be held at the Armenian Presbyterian Church, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ at 6:15 p.m. This year, in addition to the Dinner, there will be a Concert and Dessert Reception celebrating the theme of "Our Mission in Motion."

Hampic Djabourian, a renowned Canadian-Armenian clarinetist and *duduk* master, will be featured at the Concert along with the 16 piece Komidas Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Alexander Anisimov. Mr. Djabourian has devoted many years of study to the *duduk*, a traditional Armenian double-reed made of apricot wood.

The musical art of Mr. Djabourian is recognized in both North America and abroad. His worldwide performances have often been highlighted in the media, where music critics and knowledgeable musicians alike have expressed in the most glowing terms their professional and analytical impressions. His extensive repertoire includes the best examples of music for the clarinet and *duduk* by classical western European, Latin America, and Armenian composers. In addition to his many solo concerts and chamber music recitals, Mr. Djabourian has participated in many competitions resulting in numerous awards.

He has toured the world performing in many prominent concert halls including Carnegie Hall. Two of his 2010 performances were as soloist with the Russian Arc Orchestra under the direction of Airat Ichmouratov, followed by the McGill University Wind Symphony under the direction of Alain Cazes. Later that same year, he was the featured soloist with the Armenian State Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Rouben Asatryan at the Gomidas Chamber Music Hall in Yerevan, Armenia. In January 2011, Mr. Djabourian appeared as *duduk* soloist with the Quebec Symphony Orchestra in Quebec City, Canada.

Tickets for the Dinner, Concert and Dessert Reception are \$65 for Adults and \$40 for Students. Tickets are also available for the Concert and Dessert Reception only at \$40 for Adults and \$25 for Students. Sponsorship opportunities ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 are also available and include tickets for the Dinner and the Concert.

For further information on the Annual Meeting, the Dinner and/or Concert, please call the AMAA at 201-265-2607. □



*Hampic Djabourian, renowned Canadian-Armenian clarinetist.*

traveled to Armenia as part of the Armenia Medical Mission Team in July. Having never ventured out of the United States before, Kyle, who lives in California, was "amazed by the sense of gratitude and the joy I felt in Armenia." Kyle assisted Dr. and Mrs. Phillips and the team and worked with the many patients they treated.

"The people who I shared the experience with were truly amazing people and every so often, I find myself reflecting on how great and cooperative everyone was during the rigorous days," said Kyle. "I urge anyone who hasn't gone on this mission with the AMAA before to try it out some year. I guarantee you that it is an experience of a lifetime and such a blessing. You won't be disappointed as long as you are willing to commit your time to the Lord. I hope to see more new people, establish new friendships and serve the Lord again next year!" □



*Grace Bottomley (on the right) visiting one of the Milk Fund babies and her mother.*



# Montreal Hosts AEUNA's 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Assembly and AEYF Convention

The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) held its 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Assembly on June 28-July 1 in Montreal, Canada. Hosted by the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, the theme of this Assembly was "The Power of the Cross; Passion for Christ." Over 300 people, including the members of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF) and members of the clergy, and men and women representing the Union, attended the four day event.

There were special breakfast meetings and business meetings which covered success stories and challenges the Union has faced during the past two years. In addition, the AEUNA members had the option of touring Montreal or visiting Mediterranean markets in Montreal.

Keynote Speaker David Macfarlane, Director of the National Initiative for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada, gave several inspirational messages at the sessions. His dynamic and humorous presentations tied in with the theme of the Assembly and were well received by the attendees.

The Gala Banquet attended by 400 people was held on Saturday, June 30 at the Sheraton Dorval Airport Hotel. Rev. Georges Dabbo gave the opening remarks with Raffi Shnorhokian serving as Master of Ceremonies. Rev. Haig Darakjian gave the Invocation. Following the dinner there were greetings from Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Moderator of the AEUNA, and Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA. Rev. Philippe Joret was the Keynote Speaker. Special recognition was given to Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian who stepped down from his position in July. Rev. Joe Matossian, Minister to the AEUNA, gave the Benediction.

The Sunday Worship Service was held at The First Armenian Evangelical Church with messages in English by Rev. Greg Haroutunian and in Armenian by Rev. Nishan Bakalian. The congregation also enjoyed the "Badveli Chorus" where the majority of ministers sang for the second time during the weekend. The new AEUNA

Board was installed and the laying of hands and special prayers were offered for Rev. Melkonian, who will continue his ministry as AMAA Minister to Ministers.

The Union expressed sincere thanks to the core team that made up the AEUNA Planning Committee which included: Pastor Georges Dabbo, Raffi Shnorhokian, Shoghik Sabbaghian, Tania Kassardjian, Raffi Oyan, Seta Zoryan, Liza Albarian, Garen Cakmak and Elie Nakhoul.

Rev. Nishan Bakalian, Pastor of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church, Havertown, PA, was elected as the new Moderator and Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Pastor of the First Armenian Church, Belmont, MA, was elected Vice Moderator, Roseann Saliba was elected Clerk of the AEUNA and Souzi Baghdikian was elected Treasurer. Rev. Joseph Matossian agreed to remain as Minister to the Union until the end of 2012. Other newly elected Board members of the AEUNA for 2012-2014 are:

Stewardship Committee: Greg Sarian

Ministry Committee: Rev. Ron Tovmassian

Youth Committee: Silva Orchanian

Armenian Christian Heritage Committee: Anitbas Loussararian

Publication Committee: Vahe Tcharkhoutian

## Members-At-Large

Rev. Sam Albarian

Raffi Balabanian, DDS, MAGD

Rev. Ara Chakerian

Pastor Georges Dabbo

Lena Ekmekjian

Rev. Mike Mekredijian

Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian

The next AEUNA Biennial Assembly and the AEYF Convention are scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, CA in 2014. □



# Աւետարանչութիւն Եւ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցի

Մատթոս 28. 16-20

Վեր. Պարգեւ Ն. Տարագճեան

«Ուրեմն գացէ՛ք բոլոր ազգերը աշակերտեցէ՛ք, մկրտեցէ՛ք զանոնք յանուն Հօր, եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ...»  
(Մատթ. 28. 19)

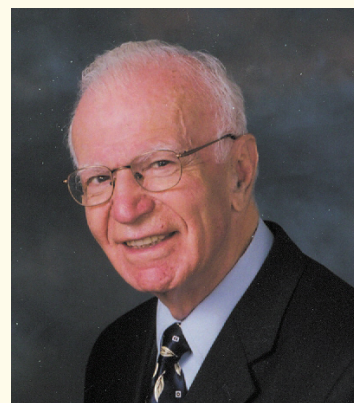
Վերի համարը մեր Տիրոջ վերջին պատուերն էր իր աշակերտներուն՝ երկինք համբառնալէ առաջ: Պարզ խօսքով, Յիսուս կը պատուիրէր իր աշակերտներուն աւետարանչութիւն ընել, ու փրկութեան պատգամը հաղորդել արար աշխարհի: «Աւետարան» կը նշանակէ «աւետիս» կամ՝ «բարի լուր բովանդակող» որ կը յայտնաբերէ Աստուծոյ փրկագործութիւնը Իր Որդւոյն Յիսուս Քրիստոսի միջոցաւ:

Մեր Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին անմիջական պտուղն է թրքահայութեան մօտ կատարուած աւետարանչական գործունէութեան: Միջանկեալ յայտնենք որ 19-րդ դարը միջազգային պատմութեան մէջ կը յատկանշուի իբրեւ Մեծ Դար: Այս դարուն ընթացքին է որ կատարուեցան մեծ գիտեր, ու տեղի ունեցան մեծ դէպքեր որոնք աշխարհի ընթացքը փոխակերպեցին: Միսիոնարական Շարժումը այս մեծ դէպքերէն մէկն էր որ սկսաւ մեր այս երկրին մէջ 1810-ական թուականներուն: Տիրող գաղափարը այն էր որ Յիսուսի երկրորդ Գալուստը մօտեցած էր, հետեւաբար, աշխարհ պատրաստ ըլլալու էր գԱյն դիմաւորելու: Ուրեմն, կազմուեցաւ միսիոնարական մեծ ընկերակցութիւն մը որուն միջոցաւ միսիոնարներ դրկուեցան աշխարհի գանազան, բայց յատկապէս ո՛չ-քրիստոնէայ երկիրներ, որոնցմէ մէկն էր Թուրքիան: Այս միսիոնարները լուր չունէին հայերու մասին, որով անակնկալի եկան երբ Օսմանեան այդ հեռաւոր ու ընդարձակ երկրին մէջ քրիստոնէայ հայերու հանդիպեցան: Ո՛չ, այս միսիոնարները չեկան «հայերը բողոքական դարձնելու», հապա, Քրիստոսի Աւետարանը քարոզելու Օսմանեան ցամաքամասին մէջ: Միսիոնարները ուրախացան քրիստոնէայ ժողովուրդի մը հանդիպելով: Սակայն, շուտով նկատեցին որ հայերը թէեւ քրիստոնէայ էին, սակայն, հոգեւոր դաստիարակութեան

մէջ խիստ յետամնաց էին: Միսիոնարներ յղացան ծրագիր մը, որուն համեմատ՝ հայ քրիստոնէաները իբրեւ միջոց պիտի գործածէին, որպէսզի թուրքերը Քրիստոսի շահէին:

Ահա այս նպատակով է որ անոնք սկսան գործել հայերու մէջ, ու նոյնիսկ հոգեւոր գործիչներ պատրաստել անոնցմէ: Սակայն, պարագաներու դժբախտ բերումով, միսիոնարներուն գործելակերպը պառակտում յառաջ բերաւ Թուրքիոյ հայ ժողովուրդին մօտ: Անշուշտ, սխալներ եղան մէկ կողմէն միսիոնարներու, ու միւս կողմէն, հայ ազգին առաջնորդներուն կողմէ: Հետեւանք եղաւ բաժանում, որով 1 Յուլիս, 1846 թ.ին Կ. Պոլսոյ մէջ կազմուեցաւ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին, որուն շարունակութիւնն են ներկայ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիները: Ինչ որ ըսել կ'ուզեմ, սա է՝ թէ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին ծնաւ աւետարանչութիւնով:

Պէտք է ըսել որ Թուրքիոյ մէջ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին ունեցած է աւետարանչական լայնատարած գործունէութիւններ, ինչ որ չէ վրիպած ԺԹ. դարու հայ մեծագոյն գրող-վիպասանին՝ Բաքմիին ուշադրութենէն եւ գրիչէն: Մայր Եկեղեցիին տուած իր թելադրութիւններուն մէջ՝ Բաքմին չի մոռնար, կամ՝ քաջութիւնը կ'ունենայ օրինակ բերելու Հայ Աւետարանական գործիչներուն տարած միսիոնարական-աւետարանչական նուիրումն ու աշխատանքը: Շիտակ կամ սխալ՝ ան կը ֆնմադատէ Մայր Եկեղեցիին կղերականները որոնց մօտ - ըստ Բաքմիին - միսիոնարական հոգի կամ նուիր-





րում գոյութիւն չունի, ու կը թելադրէ անոնց օրինակ առնել Հայ Բողոքական պատուելիներէն ու աւետարանիչներէն:

Ի՞նչ է ներկայ կացութիւնը: Արդեօք մենք կը շարունակե՞նք մեր աւետարանչական առաքելութիւնը հայ ժողովուրդին մէջ: Մեր եկեղեցիները ի՞նչ չափով կ'արդարացնեն իրենց աւետարանչական առաքելութիւնը: Անշուշտ մենք փառք կուտանք Աստուծոյ մեր Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան համար, եւ կ'ուրախանանք իմանալով իր աշխարհատարած ծառայութիւններուն շուրջ: Սակայն, եկէ՛ք այսօր աւելի նեղցնենք սահմանները: Խօսքս եկեղեցականէ աւելի անհատական է: Մենք, իբրեւ աւետարանականներ, անհատապէս աւետարանչութիւն կ'ընենք: Անշուշտ ըսել չեմ ուզեր որ մամբանք մեր հանդիպած անցորդները կեցնենք եւ հարցնենք իրենց թէ արդեօք Տէր Յիսուսը ընդունա՞ծ են իբրեւ իրենց անձնական Փրկիչը: Աւանդական այս կերպը գործադրելի էր ատեն մը, սակայն, մենք՝ իբրեւ ներկայ ժամանակներու աւելի խոհեմ եւ իմաստուն փրկուածներ, պէտք է մարդոց մօտենանք ներկայ ժամանակներուն պահանջին, ու յարմարութեան համեմատ:

Ես կը հաւատամ որ աւետարանչութիւնը ամէն մէկուս պարտականութիւնն է իբրեւ հաւատացեալ քրիստոնեաներ, ու եկեղեցիի անդամներ: Սակայն,

համաձայն մեր Տիրոջ պատուէրին՝ խոհեմ ըլլանք ու յարգենք պատշաճութիւնները: Մեր Հոգեւոր Հովիւները անշուշտ թէ մերթ կը մօտենան մեզի ու կը յանձնարարեն որ այսինչ կամ այնինչ անձին մօտենանք: Սակայն, մենք եւս արթուն եւ ուշիմ ըլլալու ենք անձները եւ ժամանակները նանչնալու եւ որոշելու՝ եւ ըստ այնմ՝ աւետարանչութիւն ընելու: Ու տակաւին՝ մենք ո'չ յանպատաստից խօսելու ենք, ոչ ալ առանց նախապատրաստական աշխատանքներ տանելու յանկարծակիի բերելու ենք մեզի հանդիպողները եւ կամ՝ խօսակիցները: Իմ յանձնարարութիւնս պիտի ըլլար որ իբրեւ աշխարհականներ՝ մեր Հոգեւոր Առաջնորդներուն հետ ալ խորհրդակցինք՝ աւետարանչական աշխատանքի սկսելէ առաջ: Ու տակաւին, անձնապէս խորհինք եւ աղօթենք, խնդրելով Սուրբ Հոգիին առաջնորդութիւնը:

Աղօթենք որ Սուրբ Հոգին ըլլայ մեր դաստիարակը, ու սորվեցնէ մեզի թէ ե՞րբ, որո՞ւ, ու ինչպէ՞ս հաղորդելու ենք Աւետարանին փրկութեան լուրը մեզի ծանօթ կամ անծանօթ անձներու: Յարգենք մեր հաւանական խօսակիցներուն տրամադրութիւնը, ժամանակն ու պայմանները որպէսզի արդիւնաբեր դառնայ մեր աւետարանչութիւնը՝ Քրիստոսի փառքին, ու Թագաւորութեան յառաջացման համար: ԱՄԷՆ: □



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, November 17, 2012**

**Haigazian University**

**Trustees Banquet**

*In Honor of Joyce Philibosian Stein*

*Recipient, 2012 Ellis Island Medal of Honor*

**Sheraton Universal Hotel Ballroom**

**Universal City, CA**

**Social Hour 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm**

## **17th Annual Boston Area Children Helping Children Luncheon Scheduled for October 25**

The 17th Annual Boston area Children Helping Children Luncheon, organized by the local Orphan and Child Care Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), will be held at the Wellesley Country Club, on Thursday, October 25. Guests will be treated to an over-the-top afternoon of fun, hosted by our lively celebrity guest host from Channel 5 news, and featuring our fabulous bling table, spectacular raffle items, and exciting live and silent auctions. Auction items will include tickets to Boston sports events, jewelry, designer handbags, art, dinners, and more. All proceeds will be donated to the AMAA in support of orphan and child care programs in Armenia and Karabagh.

The Committee welcomes all who would like to attend. Individuals wishing to purchase a ticket to the event, or those wishing to donate goods or services may do so by contacting Michele Simourian at 508.785.0569.

## Arthur Akullian

Arthur Akullian passed away on May 11, 2012 in Boca Raton, FL. He was 89.

Born in Troy, NY, he was the son of the late Jacob and Yeranik Akullian. He was educated at Albany Academy and Albany Business College. He served in WWII in the Philippine Islands as an Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gunman and was a POW for three and one half years. Following his discharge from the Army, the Secretary of the Army decorated Arthur with the Bronze Star Medal, the POW Medal, the Purple Heart and numerous other medals of honor. After the service, Arthur joined the family business and served as Vice President of Grand Cash Markets in Albany.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Agnes Serian Akullian, a daughter, Sharon Gallagher of Wayne, PA; his sister Nevart Akullian Macer of Altadena, CA; two grandsons, a great grandson and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held in May in Boca Raton. □

## Haig Boyadjian

Haig Boyadjian, brother of AMAA Board member Lucy Janjigian, passed away on June 14, 2012, at Villa Marie Claire, Saddle River, NJ. He was 77.



Haig was born in 1935, in Jerusalem, Palestine to Mary and Haroutune Boyadjian. He graduated from St. Georges School of Jerusalem in 1953 and came to the United States to complete his higher education. He received his undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, and his Masters from The Fletcher School, Tufts University. From 1959 to 1961, he was on active duty in the US Army, and was in the Army Reserves until 1965.

Following completion of his military service, he joined the Chase Manhattan Bank starting in their Special Development Program. He was assigned to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Paris, France and his final assignment with Chase was as Executive Director of the Iran Chase International Bank.

In 1976 he joined BHF Bank as Head of North American Credit Operations. He later joined Midland Bank U.K., and was assigned to Dusseldorf, Germany and London, England to establish a Credit Training Program. His last assignment with Midland Bank was as Senior Vice President in New York City.

He co-authored a book, "Risks, Reading Corporate Signals."

Haig derived great pleasure from hunting, his dogs, and was an avid reader. He also enjoyed giving and entertaining at home.

He is survived by his two sisters, Lucy Janjigian, of Franklin Lakes, NJ, and Anahid Thomas of Portchester, England, and his brother Peter of Hernando, FL, four nephews, one niece and ten grandnephews and grandnieces.

A memorial service was held on June 17 for close friends and family. The AMAA remembers Haig's love for the organization and his generous donations to the AMAA, Haigazian University, Summer Camps in Armenia, the Musa Ler Foundation and many other organizations. □

## Anali Demirjian

Annali Shnorhokian Demirjian passed away on October 29, 2011 in Belmont, MA.

The daughter of Hovhannes and Victoria Aynilian Shnorhokian, her family migrated to Aleppo, Syria as refugees. She was educated at the Armenian Immanuel Evangelical School. Her father raised funds to have Bibles printed in Turkish to distribute in Turkey. She witnessed her father's many attempts to evangelize the Turks and his commitment to the Evangelical movement.

Annali came to the United States with her husband, Garabed, and their children, Ara, Betty, Sona and Shahe. She earned her nursing license in the United States and worked for many years at the New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn, MA.

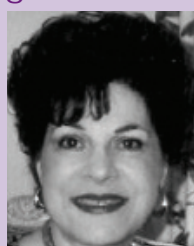
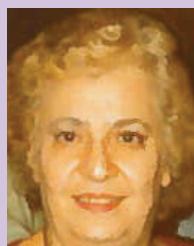
She was a lively, joyful lady and her hostess abilities were legendary.

Funeral services were held at the First Armenian Church in Belmont, MA. She is greatly missed by her children, grandchildren, her church family and friends. □

## Beatrice N. Dulgarian

Beatrice Nargizian Dulgarian of Cranston RI and Ft. Lauderdale, FL passed away on July 2, 2012. She was 87.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, she was the daughter of Alfred and Gladys Memleketian Nargizian.



A graduate of the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in speech pathology, she was one of the founders and a charter member of the Providence, RI chapter of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People. She was a speech therapist and audiologist for many years, and beginning in 1974 taught a program of lip reading and auditory training at the Hamilton House in Providence.

Beatrice was an accomplished classical pianist who studied in New York City and performed as a guest artist in NY and RI until her retirement. She was very active in a number of music clubs, women's clubs, and community organizations. She was a member of the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church in Providence and the Daughters of Vartan. She lectured throughout Rhode Island on Armenian culture and was a life-long member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

She was predeceased by her husband Earl, with whom she was co-founder of the College Hill Book Store of Providence and vice president of the Avon Cinema in Providence. She leaves her three sons, Robert (Janis) of Cumberland, Richard of Cranston, Kenneth (Gretchen) of Providence and one daughter, Joyce Swedberg (Steven) of Danvers, MA; four grandchildren, Scott, Madison, Morgan and Harrison; her brother Richard and her sister Jean.

A funeral service was held in the First Baptist Church in America in Providence. □

## Charles M. Ezmirlian

Charles Ezmirlian passed away on April 29, 2012 in Los Angeles, CA at the age of 98.

Born in Philadelphia to Martin and Maritza Kalustian Ezmirlian of Arapkir, he and his family moved to California in 1923 and settled in Glassell Park, Los Angeles. He graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School and went into the Navy in 1942. He served our country during World War II, patching battleships on a floating dry dock in the New Hebrides Islands in the South Pacific. Following his discharge, Charlie returned home to work at the Verdugo Hardware Store where he had worked during high school and after graduation. He worked for the hardware store for fifty years. He loved his job, his employers and his customers and was rewarded with a partnership in the business. He also loved his family and was





like a father to all, guiding his siblings through life with love and wisdom.

Charlie was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Carolyn, and his two sisters, Alma and Anna. He is survived by his brother George, sister-in-law Marjorie, his nephew Michael and his great nephew, Blake in addition to cousins Joe Zeronian, President of the AMAA Board of Directors, and Mary Ann Malconian.

He was buried at sea on June 16 in San Pedro, CA. □

## Alice Gertmenian

Alice Gertmenian, a longtime supporter of the AMAA and the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA, passed away on July 14, 2012 in Pasadena, CA. She was 89.



Born in Marseilles, France, Alice spent her childhood in Philadelphia, PA. After moving to Pasadena in 1959, she raised a family while working as an office manager for 20 years. Alice had many leadership roles in her church, the Armenian Cilicia Church in Pasadena, including serving as the Church Treasurer for 10 years. Community service was Alice's passion and she was active in the Daughters of Vartan, Dorcas Guild and the Ararat Home. She supported many projects to improve economic conditions in Armenia.

She is survived by her husband Seb, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on July 21 at the Armenian Cilicia Church in Pasadena. □

## George Guldalian

George Guldalian passed away on June 29, 2012 in Orange County, CA. Born in Aleppo, Syria, he was 79.



He received his education at the Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical School in Aleppo and at Aleppo College. He moved to the United States in 1952 and continued his education in Detroit, MI where he earned his BA in Aeronautical Engineering. He moved to Los Angeles, CA where he worked for Lockheed Martin and in 1971, started his own business, Grand Prix Tire in Glendale, CA. Over the years, he helped many newly arriving Armenian immigrants get established by providing them with their first jobs in the United States. Upon learning the trade, many of these young men

continued on in the automotive repair and tire industry and successfully established their own businesses.

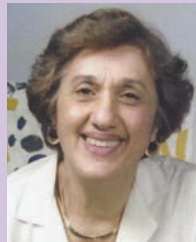
George was a member of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles for more than 40 years. He served the C. & E. Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School of Sherman Oaks, CA for many years as a member of various committees, including the Finance Committee. He was a faithful supporter of many AMAA programs.

He is survived by his brother Antranig; sisters Alice and Pauline; his two sons, John and Flora Guldalian and Jeff and Jennifer Guldalian, and two granddaughters Emily and Natalie.

Memorial donations may be made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □

## Beatrice Kassapian

Beatrice Taneian Kassapian of Manhasset, NY passed away, with her family by her side, on May 5, 2012 at the age of 88.



Beatrice was born in West New York, NJ to Boghos Taneian, a philanthropist and a founder of the Armenian General Bevevolent Union in the United States and the Holy Cross Armenian Church, Union City, NJ, and Haiganoush Dirhemjian, a member of the Ladies Educational Society and secretary to the Board of Education at the Armenian School.

After her father's sudden passing in 1933, her mother immediately took over the family business and raised her four daughters.

She married Edward Yervant Ajamian, an attorney and New Jersey State Assemblyman, and together had three children. Edward passed away in 1960. In 1973, Beatrice married Osgan Kassapian and moved to Flushing NY where she worked as a secretary to the seminal group that founded the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School. She served as a Board Member, served as the Women's Guild secretary and sang in the Church choir.

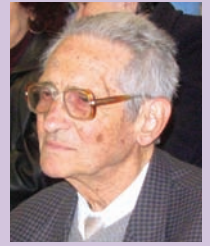
She had season tickets to the Metropolitan Opera and loved traveling, letter writing and her grandchildren.

Beatrice is survived by her three children, Karen, Denise and Edward, her son-in-law, Dr. Edward Smaldone, three grandchildren, Laura, Gregory and Julia, and her three sisters.

A funeral service was held at the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY. □

## Pastor Ervant Kazasian

On August 6, God called to Him His faithful servant Pastor Ervant Kazasian and offered him well deserved rest. He died at the age of 86 and served the Church until the last day of his life.



Twenty two years ago, after the democratic changes in Bulgaria, he answered God's calling to become a preacher of the Gospel among the Armenians in Bulgaria. In the beginning of the 20th century there were few Armenian Evangelical Churches as a result of the successful mission among the Armenian refugees. These churches were closed down during the Communist regime. Preaching in a mother's tongue is a real challenge for the minorities and it gives a wonderful opportunity for mission and evangelism.

Pastor Kazasian gave his contribution for the restoration of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Varna, Russe and Burgas. He started work as an Assistant Preacher and in 1996, at the age of 69, he was ordained as a Pastor. God gave him the great privilege to get a new start at such an age, something he valued for the rest of his life.

He served with great joy. He preached not only with words but also with his life. He radiated joy, he loved all, he wanted to embrace all. Many people understood that sermon and he won the hearts of many. I am convinced that he was one of the most successful pastors of our Church. And, he was successful not only because of his words, but also because of his love and joy from his work for Christ's Church.

Today, we would like to thank God for giving us the privilege to have such a wonderful brother and a faithful preacher of the Gospel among us, Pastor Ervant Kazasian.

*Rev. Bedros Altunian  
Varna, Bulgaria*

## Kevork Khatchadourian

Kevork Khatchadourian passed away on April 25, 2012 in San Mateo, CA. He was 88.

Born in Iskenderun, Turkey in very humble settings, Kevork and his family migrated to Aleppo, Syria. After finishing 3rd grade, he and his brothers were taken out of school to help their father, Armenag, support the family. Young Kevork, along with his brothers, Johnig and Garo, started mastering the art of goldsmithing at a very young age. Later, he and his wife, Violette, moved to Beirut, Lebanon with his brothers to start their

own business. He was a master craftsman and partnered with his brother, Johnig, for 40 years under the brand "Khatchadourian Brothers."

Seven years later after Violette's passing, Kevork fell in love with his son's kindergarten teacher, Betty, and remarried. They were blessed with two sons Vicken and Zaven. Betty influenced Kevork to become active in the community and the church. People always trusted him with their money and he was the Treasurer in every organization he joined. He was very articulate, good in managing and balancing the budget.

Kevork believed in the value of education and did not allow his upbringing to deter his tenacity to send his children to school. He was a great provider to his family and ensured that all his children obtained a good education. They all attended the Armenian Evangelical Central High School in Beirut, Lebanon and continued their higher education overseas.

In 1985 Kevork and his wife Betty both migrated to the United States following their sons and made their home in San Mateo, CA. He was a very active member of the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco, CA.

He is survived by his wife Betty, sons Armen, Vicken, Zaven and granddaughter Chloe. ☐

## Joyce Mouradian

Joyce Schmeling Mouradian of Ticonderoga, NY, who along with her husband were long time supporters of the AMAA, passed away on June 19, 2012 at the age of 87.



Born in Rockford, IL to William and Helene Kupsky Schmeling, whose families emigrated from Germany to Wisconsin in the mid-19th century, Joyce trained as a hematology technologist and worked for the United States Army during World War II, studying the blood of German prisoners, seeking out malaria contracted in Rommel's African campaign. She also became interested in the harp and moved to New York City in 1944 to study the harp.

She was truly an artist at heart and enjoyed the Garden Club, her own garden, photography and her harp more than anything except for her church. She received numerous awards for her work including the Valiant Woman Award from Christian Women United, the Law Day Award from the Essex County Bar Association, and the Award of Honor from the National Garden Club in 2011. She served on various committees at her church, in her town and participated in medical missionary projects in the Dominican

Republic and Taiwan. In all things she was ahead of her time, including taking flying lessons at age 65.

Joyce was predeceased by her husband Henry and is survived by her two children, William and Wendy, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Services were held at Rice Chapel in Torrance, CA on June 30, and the First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga, NY on July 21. ☐

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

- \* **John Demirjian**  
*Quogue, NY*
- \* **Teriz Hagopian**  
*Andover, MA*
- \* **Dora Johnson**  
*Mount Pleasant, Washington DC*

\* *Memorials designated for AMAA*

*"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."*

Revelation 14:13

## Fall Reading

### Showers of Grace

By Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian

*Showers of Grace, a Memoir of God's Abundant Blessing Throughout a Lifetime of Christian Service* is a beautifully written book about the rich life of Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian. Beloved wife of two pastors, Rev. Edward Tovmassian who passed away in 1986, and Rev. Harry Missirlian, who passed away in 2007, she is the mother of four children, including Rev. Ronald Tovmassian, Pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church, Los Angeles, CA, grandmother of eleven and great grandmother of six. The 131 page book, which describes the lives of three people across more than 80 years, numerous countries and three continents, includes sermons, tributes and photos of the extended family throughout the years.

"Congratulations to my mother on a job well done," said Rev. Tovmassian. "The journey of writing this book has been hard and at times frustrating, but she has persevered. It is our hope that as you read these pages you will see God's hand of grace on every page. To Him be all honor, power and glory forever and ever. Amen."

*Showers of Grace* is available for \$20 (plus shipping and handling) through the AMAA website [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org) or by calling the AMAA at 201-265-2607.



## AMAA NEWS is going GREEN

The AMAA NEWS is now available for our members to read online. Provide your e-mail address and the AMAA will send you a copy of the AMAA NEWS via e-mail. This link will give you the news as soon as it is available without waiting for publication.

We encourage you to let us know if you are interested in receiving the AMAA NEWS online. Please just send your e-mail address to us at [amaanews@amaa.org](mailto:amaanews@amaa.org) or call us at 201.265.2607.

Thank you for helping the AMAA go GREEN!





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## **93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

The 93rd Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the AMAA Headquarters, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters and Affiliated Boards of the Association for fiscal year 2011-2012;
- II. Review the financial reports for fiscal year 2011-2012;
- III. Announce the names of the newly elected Board members;
- IV. Elect members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor; and
- VI. Consider and address any other business that may come before the membership.

### **PROGRAM OF THE 93<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

#### **Friday, October 12 at the AMAA Headquarters**

9:30 am ..... Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting  
12:00 pm ..... Lunch  
1:30 pm ..... Various Committee Meetings  
6:00 pm ..... Dinner  
7:00 pm ..... AMAA Board of Directors Meeting

#### **Saturday, October 13 at the AMAA Headquarters**

9:30 am ..... 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
12:00 pm ..... Lunch  
1:00 pm ..... AMAA Board of Directors Meeting (Short Session)

#### **Saturday, October 13 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ**

6:15 pm ..... Dinner  
7:45 pm ..... Concert featuring the 16 piece Gomidas Chamber Orchestra with Hampic Djabourian on the duduk. The musical presentation will include sharagans, sacred music and Armenian music from Gomidas, Khatchaturian, Spendiarian and others. The evening will conclude with a dessert reception.

#### **Sunday, October 14 at the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ**

11:00 am ..... 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Worship Service and Installation of AMAA Officers